

Dear Bud,

9/22/86

Jim mentioned and then sent me a copy of Fred Cook's letter to you of 7/22/86 in which he wonders if flagging Oswald at State means what it did when some of the Nazis our government liked were flagged for special, favorable treatment. While I have from the very first, and I mean the first few days, believed that there were indications of an Oswald-government relationship of some kind, I don't believe that the flagging indicates this. After all these years my recollection may not be dependable and while for some political reasons such flagging may have been indicated, like to deny passports to "reds," I believe that in Oswald's case it began because he owed State the money it had advanced to repatriate him. Possibly Sylvia Meagher's recollection may be better.

There are and I have more substantial indications of such a relationship, if Cook is ever down this way. I have proof that as a Marine Oswald had the highest security clearances not on his service record, on which his actual assignments also are not entered, and going along with this is what caused, or perhaps I should be more cautious and say seems to have caused, the abrupt change in the CIA's treatment of Nosenko from princely to incredibly abusive. The KGB suspected that Oswald was a sleeper agent. And he was anti-Soviet when he was in the USSR. This also is in the reporting of what Nosenko said. His writing, as I reported in my first book, was anti-Soviet and anti-US Communist.

All of Oswald's actual overseas assignments had a relationship with the CIA. It was not only Atsugi.

Loftus refers to card flags being stapled to the paperwork. I do not now know why but I think that Oswald's card was marked with a clip-on flag, the standard kind available at the usual stores.

The idea was that when he paid up that flag could be removed.

If State then was not flagging those Frances Knight considered "red" I'd be astounded. I knew her before she got the hept to get that kind of job, and I could hardly believe how overtly she sought to undermine new dealers above her as red.

Best,

*Harold*